

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A method for determining the drying rate of a liquid film, comprising:
  - (a) applying an amount of the liquid onto a first piece of a substrate to form an initial rollout proof having a head where the liquid is first applied to the substrate and at least one tail where the liquid is last applied to the substrate;
  - (b) allowing the liquid to at least partially dry for a predetermined period of time;
  - (c) repeating steps (a) - (b) to prepare at least one second rollout proof on a second piece of the substrate, said second rollout proof having a head where the liquid is first applied to the substrate and at least one tail where the liquid is last applied to the substrate, and allowing the second rollout to at least partially dry for the same predetermined period of time allowed to elapse in (b);
  - (d) utilizing a densitometer to measure the density of each of the at least partially dried first and second rollout proofs, at the tails of the respective rollout proofs;
  - (e) repeating steps (a) - (d) a plurality of times;
  - (f) plotting the measured density of the tails of each of the respective rollout proofs versus a parameter related to the elapsed time at which the density measurement was made, to form a graph with at least one curve, which is representative of the drying rate of the liquid.
2. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein at least three replications of each sample are performed and average values of all of the measured density values for corresponding replications are plotted to form the graph.

3. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein in step (e), from 2 to 20 repetitions of steps (a) - (d) are performed until complete drying of the sample is attained, to provide a corresponding number of density measurements at the tails of the rollout proofs for use in plotting to form the graph of the curve representative of the drying rate of the liquid.
4. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the liquid is selected from the group consisting of coatings, inks, and paints.
5. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein when the liquid is an ink.
6. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein when the liquid is a flexographic ink.
7. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 6, wherein the flexographic ink is selected from the group consisting of: water-based ink for paper packaging, solvent-based ink for film, and water-based ink for film.
8. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the at least one curve that is representative of the drying rate of the liquid is a plot of print density of the liquid, as measured by the densitometer at a predetermined point of time, versus sample number or tail number corresponding to that densitometer measurement.
9. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 8, wherein the at least one curve representative of the drying rate of the liquid is selected from a plot of: average initial and average after density measurements versus sample or tail number; differences between the average after and average initial density measurements ( $\Delta = \rho_A - \rho_I$ ) versus sample or tail number; and differences between the difference between the initial and after density and a density of a reference base substance ( $\Delta = [(\rho_A - \rho_I) - \rho_R]$ ) versus sample or tail number.
10. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein step (f) is automated.

11. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 10, wherein the automation of step (f) includes a computer system with computer graphics hardware and software, which is connected to the densitometer, such that densitometer measurements of the density of the tails of rollout proofs are directly inputted to the computer and the graph of the curve is automatically plotted.

12-40. (Canceled)